

To: COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

From: James Amaro,
Chairman, Veterans Advisory Committee (Town of Manchester)
Disabled Veteran

RE: Support toward the Following Bills:

It seems like the Committee of Veterans Affairs, doesn't really pass anything that is "monetarily beneficial" for veterans, yet we are told we've paid the ultimate sacrifices for our country; however, we are not paid back for our sacrifices. "According to a report published by the United States Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) in 2016, which analyzed 55 million veterans' records from 1979 to 2014, the current analysis indicates that an average of 20 veterans die from suicide per day."

For the Veterans who are fighting to stay alive, as we battle what we have seen or gone through to keep this a free country, for you to be safe in the USA, rejecting bills, this committee has blocked many bills that would benefit veteran, because of lobbyist who make sure things stay in line, to not break any budgets of Town Municipalities.

For once, help the Veteran who are fighting to stay alive and not the lobbyist! Keep that in mind when your rejecting bills, that will help veteran stay afloat and not revert to suicide. Today another 20 veterans are counting on you!

I am in full support of any and all bills Infront of the Veterans Affairs Committee. More specifically and in detail for the following:

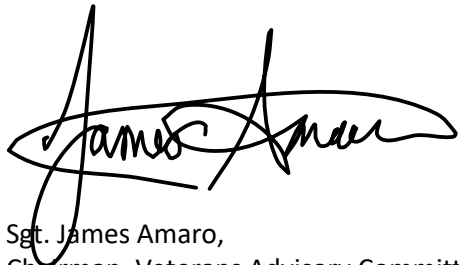
1. S.B. No. 336 – I am in support of this bill, due to the fact, Veterans were originally given free access to park, so it would only be fair to exempt veteran from payment of the motor vehicle registration fee associated with passport to the parks program.
2. S.B. No. 338 – I am in support of this bill, due to the fact, such study would identify those facts that we already know and how to address them, which are Municipalities are short and limited on veteran services, and lack the VA updates and training, it takes committees like yourself to bring things to the floor, you all should be in support of improving veteran services at the municipality level as you are the veterans committee for the State of Connecticut, help the Veterans at the Municipality Level, that's why you sit in such Committee!
3. S.B No. 341 –
 - a. I am in support of this bill, due to the fact, that this committee has rejected many of these types of bills, how about you let it to the floor and let it be voted and hashed out further. Excluding veterans' disability benefits from qualifying income when determining eligibility for certain property tax relief, would help many veterans where this is there only income and the veteran's disability benefits is blocking them from other benefits, that can help them save the little money they

have, always think of the veteran who only have Veteran benefits as an income and it's blocking them from additional assistance.

- b. I am in support of this bill, due to the fact, establishing a task force to examine state property tax relief granted to veterans, would allow real data of what other states are giving veteran compared to our state. This board rejected a bill to increase the property tax exemption, again, not having our sacrifice in mind when rejecting. Remember that civilians who don't join the military didn't sacrifice their life for this country, so increasing the burden on non-veteran tax payers and municipalities, are a small sacrifice that would be paid to the veteran who sacrificed their life for this country you are currently free in. This task force would help identify the improvements we can do on the prior bills you rejected and didn't pass that are within this topic of state property tax relief.
 - c. I am in support of this bill, due to the fact, grant an extension, upon municipal approval, to certain military service members for the filing of appeals to the board of assessment appeals – Allow more power to the municipality to do more and freely improve the voice of the veteran in their town.
- 4. S.B No. 345 - I am in support of this bill, due to the fact, veteran who this will impact are in need and will improve situations, such as transport, which can help with employment, making appointment, improving the over all health and life, by having a means of travel, again a small token for forgetting the sacrifice they made, and not leaving them on the curb with no help or assistance.
 - 5. S.B No. 5370 - I am in support of this bill, due to the fact, that this daily rate is ridiculous. It should be a lot more, for the type of Job they are required to do, imagine missing a day of pay from your Job, I'm sure it isn't \$50 bucks, and now consideration for \$60 bucks a day, that's the least that can be done. The Funeral honor guard detail is not an easy detail, have you presented a flag to a crying widow?

I have read many rejections from this committee, in which some were just really embarrassing to read, let's put a standard on Improving all aspects for veteran in Connecticut, as I speak to many veterans and many veterans are just looking to Leave Connecticut.

MAKE CONNECTICUT LIVABLE FOR VETERANS!

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Amaro". The signature is stylized with a large, sweeping loop at the beginning and a long, horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Sgt. James Amaro,
Chairman, Veterans Advisory Committee (Town of Manchester)
Disabled Veteran